

(Mr. Nazarkin, USSR)

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The Soviet Foreign Minister, E. Shevardnadze, and United States Secretary of State Shultz, as you know, signed an agreement between the USSR and the United States on co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, providing for joint activities between Soviet and United States scientists in exploration of the solar system, space astronomy and astrophysics, Earth science, the physics of solar-terrestrial communications, and space biology and medicine. There was a productive and substantive comparison of views on other issues of bilateral co-operation which singled out new possibilities for its development and expansion. The visit included a discussion on issues connected with the state of affairs at the negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons, and in particular the question of challenge inspection. The Soviet side pointed out that only a few issues are outstanding at the negotiations, and if we focus our efforts the prospects which are opening up are both real and promising.

Many generations have dreamed of a convention banning chemical weapons, and it would be a serious error to let the existing real opportunity to prohibit such weapons slip by. The Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union has discussed the outcome of the talks with United States Secretary of State Shultz. It was stressed that the conclusions the United States Administration is going to draw from the information given to Mr. Schultz, and the proposals made by the Soviet leadership in the course of the talks, will determine whether it will be possible to find an early solution to major disarmament issues, primarily on medium-range and shorter-range missiles, and to improve Soviet-United States relations and the situation in international affairs. The Soviet leadership is prepared to solve these issues jointly in the same spirit of active dialogue and with the same desire for mutual understanding that marked the negotiations in Moscow with Secretary of State Shultz.

Comrade President, may I dwell on a number of issues in connection with the statement we heard today from Ambassador Hansen on the question of the prohibition of chemical weapons.

I listened with interest to his views on alternative measures that could be applied to identify secret stockpiles. These views will undoubtedly be studied by our experts. As I see it, a dialogue regarding alternative